

Darbar Grill
157 East 55th Street (between Third and Lexington Avenues)
New York, NY 10022

Curry Without the Hurry

Let me start out by saying I do not like Indian food. I have tried it several times over the years and have been completely underwhelmed. But my friend Arlene wanted to try Darbar Grill for their \$10.95 all you can eat lunch buffet. What the hell, I thought. Let me be open-minded and give Indian food another chance. While I am certainly not a convert, I will say that Darbar Grill is the best of any Indian restaurant I have been to.

They have two locations (one at 152 East 46th Street, the other at 157 East 55th Street) – we ate at the 55th Street location. The restaurant is beautifully appointed with rich dark chocolate colors. The buffet offers a large selection of mostly traditional Indian fare, along with a dessert buffet with at least five selections (the rice pudding was a letdown but the mango mousse was creamy, cleansing, and delicious).

Standouts were the curried goat, tandoori chicken, chicken tikka masala, rice pilaf, refreshing crispy coleslaw, and delicious Indian bread that they set down on the table, perfect for dipping in the various sauces. You could taste the traditional Indian flavors, many which were spicy, which I liked, but I still have not acquired a taste for Indian spices. Let me put it this way – if you love Indian food, you will love Darbar Grill. If you don't, you might be pleasantly surprised and like it. For \$10.95 and all you can eat, you cannot go wrong, but how obnoxious to charge \$3.00 for a medium size glass of Diet Coke!

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